

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to better define the features of the invention. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 7.

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alcott (US 6,324,273) in view of Panizzon et al. (US 4,219,700) and further in view of Majmudar et al. (US 4,897,866). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Office Action relies on a combination of multiple references to reject the claims. Alcott discloses a system for providing a network enabled platform for customers to directly order, provision and establish subscription telecommunication service products using touchtone keys. Abstract. Panizzon et al. discloses a station set interface circuit for connection to a multi-party line for prohibiting connection of a party line subscriber's set to the party line if the line is in use. After the subscriber's handset is replaced on the station set, the telephone can be rung once the call in progress has terminated. Col. 2, ll. 48-54. Mujmudar et al. discloses an arrangement for allowing a subscriber to select telephone features from the subscriber terminal. Abstract.

The Office Action purports that while Alcott and Majmudar et al. do not disclose or suggest placing a call to a first party when a first telecommunication feature has become available, Panizzon et al. does disclose such a feature. To support this proposition, the Office Action cites the part of Panizzon et al. which discloses that a subscriber's line may be rung once a call in progress has terminated to indicate that the line is idle. See, Office Action, page 8, Patent, Col. 2, lines 48-54. For this reading to make sense, the call would need to be interpreted as the first telecommunication feature that has become available.

The claims as amended to recite that "the first party has the opportunity to subscribe to the first telecommunication feature after the call is placed". This feature, with the other features recited in the claims, is neither disclosed or

suggested in Alcott, Majmudar et al. nor Panizzon et al., either alone or in combination. The call disclosed in Panizzon et al. cannot be interpreted as the first telecommunication feature.

New claims 27-30 have been added which recite "updating the first data structure with information regarding the first party requesting or denying the first telecommunications service in accordance with a response by the first party to the call." The call to the first party informs the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available. The placing of the call to the first party occurs in response to the inquiring in the first transaction, the upgrading the portion of the telecommunication network, and the processing of the first data structure and the availability data. The first party has the opportunity to subscribe to the first telecommunication feature after the call is placed. Neither Alcott, Majmudar et al. nor Panizzon et al., either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the combination of these features as recited in the claims. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that new claims 27-30 be allowed.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,


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